

**Sacramento River Conservation Area
Board of Directors
Minutes**

June 28, 2001
4:00 p.m.

Willows City Hall
Willows, Ca.

- 1) Chairman Denny Bungarz called the meeting of the Sacramento River Conservation Area to order at 4:05 p.m. at the above location. It was determined there was a quorum of (12) voting members present.

County	Public Interest	Landowner	Agency
Butte	Jane Dolan	Shirley Lewis	
Colusa	Doug White	Ben Carter	
Glenn	Denny Bungarz	Don Anderson	
Shasta	(Glenn Hawes)	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	Dan Silva	Russell Young	
Tehama	Bill Borrer	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	Lynnel Pollock	Peter Spahr Alt. (Marc Faye)	
Resources Agency			Mel Dodgin
Cal DFG			Diana Jacobs
State Reclamation Board			Pete Rabbon
USF&WS			Dan Castleberry
US COE			Mark Charlton
Cal DWR			Dwight Russell
Bureau of Reclamation			Laura Allen

Names listed in parentheses represent absences
Also present an estimate audience of 25 interested persons
Manager Burt Bundy
Assistant Pat Brown, Recording Secretary
Resources Agency
Cal DWR

Tim Ramirez
Stacy Cepello

- 2) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, UNSCHEDULED MATTERS** – Bill Borrer made reference to statements he had made at the last meeting concerning the USF&WS Biological Opinion; he apologized for the way he expressed his opinion but is very concerned because it seems to go against what this organization (SRCA) is trying to do.
- 3) **CONSENT CALENDAR** – No items
- 4) **CONSIDER ADOPTION OF MINUTES** – John Merz made the following corrections: Pg. 4, Activities and Updates, para. 3, Line 1 - ...the Spring Speaker Series, in conjunction with State Parks...Line 6 - ...the President of the Altacal Audubon Society... It was moved by Russell Young, seconded by Bill Borrer to approve the May 24, 2001 minutes as corrected. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.
- 5) **ELECTION OF OFFICERS** – Doug White nominated Ben Carter, Colusa County landowner, for Chairman; Russell Young moved/seconded by Bill Borrer that nominations be closed- Ben Carter elected Chairman by unanimous vote. Denny Bungarz nominated Jane Dolan, Butte County Supervisor, for Vice-Chair; Russell Young moved/ seconded by Bill Borrer that nominations be closed – Jane Dolan elected Vice-Chair by unanimous vote. Denny

Bungarz nominated Don Anderson, Glenn County Landowner, as Secretary/Treasurer; Russell Young moved/seconded by Doug White that nominations be closed – Don Anderson elected Secretary/Treasurer by unanimous vote. Ben Carter assumed the duties of Chairman and thanked Denny Bungarz for his many contributions during the course of his term.

- 6) **UPDATE ON CALFED** - – Patrick Wright, Executive Director, updated the group on the status of the program which has spent over 200 million dollars this year on water supply problems. Patrick noted that the #1 priority is keeping the program on track and on time. He also stated they have a stronger than ever commitment to science and have boosted monies to dedicate to the science program. One of the challenges is to have an independent science panel so they can have credibility as they move ahead. He noted there has been 50 million dollars made available in grant money to help local communities; none is going to state or federal agencies. Another priority is to build regional strategies – to re-format the plan on a regional basis. They would use that format to get better public input which would drive the program. They will set overall goals but to maximum extent possible, will use locally based programs; Agencies don't want to dictate to locals how to design plans. He encouraged the SRCA to be an aggressive voice – it will be heard in CALFED agencies. Patrick noted that monies flow to areas that have broad based support, such as this. They are also trying to coordinate funding mechanisms to help with safe harbor, permitting process, and other issues that impact landowners; he noted that mitigation fund is difficult because they deal with annual budgeting and can't commit budgets over long term. Tom Evans, FWA, requested that in terms of the good neighbor policy and mitigation fund that CALFED be proactive, that a mitigation fund would help lessen opposition to the SRCA program. A question was raised about funding for fish screens, there seems to be less available; Patrick noted the monies are the same but the demand for funding has risen. In closing, Patrick noted that because of new budget monies they hope to have regional coordinators so they will be aware of regional activities going on. Diana noted might want some kind of support staff to work with CALFED on coordination.
- 7) **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT** – Denny reported on items discussed at the executive committee meeting held prior to Board meeting. The group discussed the status of the proposed Handbook amendments which include the Inner River Zone Guidelines in Reach 1,3,and 4, hard points, bank stabilization language, and the new language proposed for the conservation area. Ben discussed the objectives and deliverables of the safe harbor sub-committee; it was decided that "Landowner Assurances" might be a better name. Lynnel Pollock volunteered to serve on this committee. Denny reported on the Pilt committee and asked for volunteers at the Board meeting - Jane Dolan and Marlyce Myers both volunteered to work on this committee. Denny noted they discussed ideas on how to lessen impact to counties. The July Board date was set for the 26th and the August Board meeting was set for the 23rd. Doug White requested notification of subcommittee meeting dates. The committee also discussed the possibility of involvement of the SRCA in an effort to develop a strategy for public use along the River.
- 8) **MANAGER'S REPORT** - Burt discussed a legacy grant to TNC to develop guidelines to reduce or eliminate adverse impacts to adjacent landowners due to diverse land activities. They will work closely with the Board and the TAC to identify possible impacts. **M&T/Llano Seco pumps** – Les Heringer, Manager, gave a brief history of the gravel bar situation and noted he is anticipating the latest response from Stillwater Science to be out in about a week. Les discussed a recent inspection report from Sierra View Divers that determined 2 of the Chico Outfall diffusers are buried and the river bottom in the area of the intake screens has changed

from 6' clearance under the screens to approximately 3-4'. Funding for removal of gravel is not certain yet –he noted CALFED has paid for the Stillwater Science report. Stacy Cepello, suggested this may come under section 10 if purely dredging or it may evolve to 404. John Merz cautioned the group that they need to find the best solution but that has to include public input. Burt noted the SRCA staff would make the final report available when completed. Kevin Foerster, USF&WS, noted the refuge is totally dependent on those pumps for water and are very interested in solving this issue. **Woodson Bridge** – letters of support have been sent for a section 1135 project and \$2 million has been requested for fiscal year 2002. **Hamilton City** – The next project meeting will be on July 9th at the Hamilton City Fire Hall at 9:30 a.m. The SRCA monthly newsletter will be expanded to include project updates and Burt asked that those updates be available to the SRCA staff by the date of the Board meeting.

A public informational workshop was held in Meridian on the IRZG in Reach 4; there were approximately 150 people in attendance. Ben Carter moderated the meeting and commented on the generalized feelings taken away from this meeting: general distrust of the SRCA and state and federal agencies; they did not want to buy into IRZ without having answers to impact questions; wanted to add “existing” levees to the language in Reach 4; wanted to limit area to IRZ. Burt thanked Ben, Pete, and Stacy for their assistance at the meeting. There will be a meeting on the IRZG in Reach 3 in Princeton on July 16th, Burt asked for suggestions and ideas on the presentation for this workshop. The **Economic Study** is completed. The peer review comments and committee comments are included. Burt also thanked Anjanette for her work on the Econ Committee. Burt mentioned a public use/recreation strategy plan that TNC is looking at which would involve the SRCA. This would help develop a strategy for public use along the river and also look at finding ways to help the counties provide services to improve public facilities. The funding was originally earmarked for salaries for WCB but it was determined the monies would be more beneficial if redirected. They need to get approval from CALFED to do this; the Board agreed that the SRCA staff draft a letter supporting the request for the shift of funds. Burt noted that the August Board meeting will probably be necessary as the psp's are due out mid-July and have a 60 day process. Tim Ramirez– met with psp staff in the morning and he noted they are not going to come out unless complete, he will have someone report to the Board in July as to the progress. There has been a proposal written for Colusa sub-reach, not sure of the exact area yet, but it would try to do a larger view – would look at hydrology, biology, etc. of an entire area. Will contact landowners and look at issues. Will bring more information back to July Board meeting. Sam Lawson, TNC, gave a brief description of sub-reach planning. Diana noted that the SRCA could possibly get funding to do some of the work.

- 9) **TAC REPORT** – Burt Bundy gave the TAC report in the absence of Chairman Dan Keppen . Dawit Zeleke, TNC, talked about funding they have received in the amount of \$20,000.00 for a “Compatible Land Issues” project. Joe Silveira, USF&WS, announced that public scoping meetings had been held the last week of May and first week in June. Scott Clemons, WCB, reported on a meeting he had recently with representatives from Glenn County concerning site 21, one of the very few public access sites in the County. Dan announced an upcoming meeting on August 16th at the Heidrick Ag Center where topics to be discussed will include the Klamath and ESA requirements and the Biological Opinion on riprap sites. The Bank Stabilization Committee will meet on July 12th at 9:30 a.m. in Willows.
- 10) **AGENCY REPORTS** – Mark Charlton stated the Corps and F&WS are still in negotiations, there will be another meeting on July 10th, and they will come back when there is resolution. Ben asked if the public is involved? It was noted the process involves dialogue between the two agencies – landowners not involved; the decision is science-based biology so opinion of

the public would not apply. Henry Rodegerdts, California Farm Bureau, suggested that having someone come in after the decision has been made serves no purpose – agencies must come to understand that there needs to be a new order of public involvement. Mark stated that there still are options than can be taken– i.e., can offer prudent alternatives, or don't have to do the project. Pete commented that The Reclamation Board has staff sitting in also; it was suggested that The Reclamation Board is the public forum, place to go with concerns. Mark indicated this is not a new project – it is part of an old contract. As new projects are planned, SRCA would be involved. It was suggested that the Biological Opinion will have impact on future projects as well and that the dialogue going on should not be minimized. Diana noted we are here to coordinate the restoration end of things; we aren't responsible for flood control. Bill Borror also agreed that landowners need to be part of the process rather than two agencies making decision. Lynnel stated the concerns about setback levees go beyond Reach 4; there is a fear that setback levees may be forced upon people because of the ESA.

Dwight Russell, DWR, noted the recent meeting of the Sites Reservoir group. He also touched on the situation in the Klamath where they are putting \$5 million into the drilling of wells to try to get some relief for the farmers.

Kevin Foerster, USF&WS, reported (1) Ramon Vega has accepted a new position in Arizona (2) there have been four scoping meetings for public input on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan– will have planning update mailed out. To ensure plan will be consistent with guidelines in Handbook – will have plan reviewed (3) The Environmental Assessment Document is also out for a review period (4) MOU with refuge, DF&G and State Parks for cooperative planning purposes and sharing of resources and (5) National Fire Plan requirements are being met.

Sam Lawson discussed a potential acquisition of 120 acres 3 miles north of Colusa, all within the levee. A question was asked about obtaining CEQA and NEPA documents; it was noted they are available on the Internet; the SRCA staff will obtain and forward to the interested party.

11) **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Brown
Recording Secretary